

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 7-10, 12-13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 24 and 27 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4, 6, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22-23, 25 and 26 have been canceled without prejudice and disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claim 5 was canceled by prior amendment. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following amendments and remarks are requested.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 7-10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 24 and 27 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten to recite the features of their base and any intervening claims.

In the July 31, 2009 Advisory Action, the Examiner notes that amended claims 7, 15 and 21 as presented in the Amendment After Final filed on July 23, 2009 did not include the features of respective intervening claims 6, 14 and 20. See Advisory Action, page 2. Accordingly, Applicants submit the present paper with amended claims 7, 15 and 21 reciting the features of their respective base and intervening claims. Applicants have also taken this opportunity to amend dependent claim 9 (which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter) to be in independent form reciting the features of independent claim 1 and intervening claim 6. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejection-35 USC §103

Claims 1-4, 6, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22-23 and 25-26 rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuwahara (US 6389288) and further in view of Jonsson (US 5903833), and Naiki (US 7039426), and Beamish (US 6694143). Claims 1-4, 6, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22-23 and 25-26 have been canceled, thus, rendering the rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

The applicant respectfully submits that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any unpaid fees deemed required in connection with this submission, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Dated: August 13, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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